

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A combination valve support and sealing element is used in a filter cartridge in which the filter cartridge includes a filter element within a housing closed by an end plate having a central opening surrounded by an array of radial openings spaced a fixed radial distance from one another. The valve support and sealing element is comprised of a unitary body having an annular sealing lip for sealing with the end cap of the filter element, which sealing lip deflects under oil pressure to allow oil to bypass the filter element if the filter media of the filter element is clogged. An anti-drainback valve is provided by a radial flange projecting from the unitary body, which radial flange overlies the spaced radial openings and prevents fluid from flowing back out of the spaced radial openings when not under pressure. When the fluid is under pressure, the radially projecting flange deflects, allowing oil to flow past the flange, into the housing and through the filter element.